

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested,

Claims 1-9 are pending for consideration in this application. Claims 1-7 have been amended and new Claims 8 and 9 have been added to better clarify the present invention without the introduction of any new matter.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to, Claim 2 was rejected under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and Claims 1-7 were rejected as being anticipated by Seazholtz et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,594,788).

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the granting of an interview on August 22, 2002, by Examiners Tsang and Chow to discuss the various objections and rejections.

During the course of this interview, the examiners noted that the changes to the specification and claims of this amendment and the proposed drawing corrections submitted herewith for the examiner's approval would overcome the outstanding objections and the rejection of Claim 2 under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112. If, for any reason, the examiners believe further amendments or drawing changes are required, they are invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below indicated telephone number so that mutually agreeable amendments and changes can be determined.

Before considering the prior art rejection, it is believed a brief summary of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention provides a system including a plurality of service suppliers each having at least one customer server being connected with a shared host server over a wide area network. This shared host server is also connected to receive user service requests over the wide area network that each relate to the individual services that each of the service suppliers provides. The host server receives particular user

service requests and identifies the particular service supplier associated with each received particular service request and forwards notification of the received particular service request to the customer server at the identified particular service supplier for execution of particular service logic. See page 5, lines 3-29, for example.

Turning to the outstanding anticipation rejection of Claims 1-7 based upon Seazholtz, it is noted that Seazholtz fails to teach the system of base Claim 1 as to a plurality of service suppliers each having at least one customer server being connected with a shared host server that receives user service requests relating to the individual services that each of the service suppliers provides with the host server then identifying the particular service supplier associated with the particular service request and then forwards notification of the received particular service request to the customer server at the identified particular service supplier for execution of particular service logic.

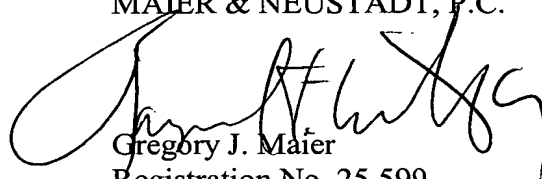
Because Seazholtz does not teach a plurality of customer servers at particular service supplier locations or any manner of selecting one of them depending on the type of service request received, the anticipation rejection based upon the teachings of Seazholtz is traversed as to Claim 1 and Claims 2-7 that depend thereon. In addition, as each of Claims 2-7 adds additional features not taught or suggested by Seazholtz, the rejection of these claims is traversed for this reasons as well.

Similarly, as new Claims 8 and 9 depend on Claim 1, they clearly patentably define over the teachings and fair suggestions of Seazholtz for the same reasons that Claim 1 does as well as because of the additional features that they add to Claim 1 that are also not taught or suggested by Seazholtz.

As no further issues are believed to be outstanding relative to this application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for a formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, lines 22-29, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The system according to the invention relates to a multimedia data transmission system characterized in that it comprises a WAN, in which the confidentiality and security are not controlled from end to end, onto which a shared voice and/or video resources host server designed to provide a dynamic service to at least one user, and at least one [call control] customer server located at each service supplier are connected.--

Page 3, lines 4-5, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - generates [arbitrary] coding-decoding media data streams;--

Page 3, lines 6-7, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - receives [arbitrary] media coding-decoding data streams.--

Page 3, lines 9-10, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - generating messages on detection of new calls to a customer [call control] server placed at a customer;--

Page 3, lines 12-13, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - making use of commands originating from the [call control] customer servers [placed at customers, such as]:--

Page 3, lines 24-32, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Advantageously, each [call control] customer server [located at a customer] is software that receives events signaled by the host server and sends commands in reaction to these events. This software can run on a computer equipped with two network interfaces, one connected to the WAN to communicate with the host server, and the other connected to a company private network in order to dialog with databases and other industrial processes belonging to the customer.--

Page 4, lines 7-8, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

Figure 2 illustrates the dialog between [an operator] a host server with voice recognition and the customer server belonging to [a] company A;

Page 4, lines 16-23, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The invention relates to a multimedia data transmission system that comprises a WAN, which may or may not be public, on which the confidentiality and security are not controlled from end to end, and onto which a shared voice and/or video resources host server is connected and provides a dynamic service to at least one customer, and onto which at least one [call control] customer server located at each customer is also connected.--

Page 5, lines 3-10, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Therefore, the invention can be used to share the voice resource host server located in the network of an operator between several customers that execute the service logic in their premises. The companies simply need to have a connection with the data network. The [operator] host server is accessible either from multimedia stations connected to the data network, or from any telephone through a gateway.--

Page 5, lines 11-15, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--With the invention, the supplier of the "accommodation" service provides [a] call control software to his customers, who run it locally on a machine in their network, and interface it with their critical databases.--

Page 5, lines 16-23, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--When a call arrives for this customer, it reaches the shared voice resource platform. This platform analyzes the requested number or the "ALIAS" for IP (INTERNET PROTOCOL) calls and deduces the client concerned. It sends a new call notification through the WAN to the call control application (customer server) for the customer concerned. In particular, this application may ask the following in return:--

Page 6, lines 11-12, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - generating media data streams (sound + video) with [arbitrary] coding-decoding;--

Page 6, lines 13-14, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - receiving media data streams (sound + video) with [arbitrary] coding-decoding;--

Page 6, line 34 to page 7, line 2, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - generating new call detection messages to a [call control] customer server placed at a customer; it must also choose the right [call control] customer server starting from the called number;--

Page 7, lines 5-6, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - implementing commands from [call control] customer servers [placed at customers], such as:--

Page 7, lines 24-33, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--In one advantageous embodiment, the [call control] customer server [located at the customer] is [a] simple software (for example "Window NT" service) that receives events

signaled by the host server and sends commands in reaction to these events. This software may run on a computer provided with two network interfaces, one connected to the Internet network to communicate with the host server, and the other connected to a company private network to dialog with databases and other industrial processes within the company.--

Page 9, lines 8-10, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--A WAN network 10, for example Internet, in which the voice and/or video resource [operator] host server 11 is connected to:--

Page 9, lines 16-17, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

-- - three customer servers 16, 17 and 18 for companies A, B and C.--

Page 9, lines 18-22, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--When the [operator] host server 11 receives a new communication from a user, the first thing it does is to analyze the called number and then deduces which company server should manage the communication; for example customer server 16 for company A.--

Page 9, lines 23-28, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Company A makes fast part orders. [Server] Customer server 16 sends its welcome announcement stored in the welcome file in the [operator] host server 11: "welcome to company A's fast order server, please press on the '*' key to begin". Informed users can interrupt this announcement by pressing on the '*' key.--

Page 9, lines 29-33, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--As soon as the user presses on '*', the [operator] host server 11 informs company A's customer server 16 with a "DTMF event" message. Company A's customer server 16 then begins to play the "Do_you_want_to_order" file which contains a recording of this phrase.--

Page 9, line 34 to page 10, line 3, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Company A's customer server 16 decides to use the voice command, to order the [operator] host server 11 to start recognition on the "yes, no" vocabulary. As soon as the user says "yes", the customer server 16 is informed by a "Word_recognition" message.--

Page 10, lines 4-7, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--[Server] Customer server 16 then asks how many parts the customer wants to order and records this number by voice recognition. It then stops the voice recognition procedure by a "Stop_recognition" command.--

Page 10, lines 8-11, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Finally, the customer server 16 repeats the amount of the order to the customer asking the [operator] host server 11 to synthesize the "You have ordered three parts" character string. The user then hangs up.--

Page 10, lines 12-15, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The dialog between the [operator] host server 11 with voice recognition which receives an H.323, SIP or other voice data stream and company A's customer server 16, is illustrated in figure 2.--

Page 10, lines 17-18, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

Voice recognition procedures usually comprise two parts as illustrated in Figure 3:

Page 10, line 33 to page 11, line 2, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--• When the customer who is calling the [company] customer server is not controlled by the network operator, the A and B components have to be put on the [operator] host server. This is the method used in the above example.--

Page 11, lines 3-8, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

- However, if the network operator can, it is better to extract significant components at the customer in order to make less use of the passband on the network between the customer and the [operator] host server. This extraction phase requires very little calculation power.

Page 11, lines 9-13, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--For example, if the client is an IP telephony software, the significant components extraction module may appear like a new speech encoder. The [operator] host server then negotiates with the customer for use of this encoder during the connection.--

Page 11, lines 14-20, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Another possible embodiment is to put a software component in a specialized displayed HTML page (ActiveX or Java) that interfaces with voice resources on the customer station and only sends significant components of the voice data stream to the [operator] host server. Thus, a specialized page can be created which reacts to voice, as in the example in figure 3.--

Page 11, lines 25-32, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--In this example embodiment, the customer is a software object ("ActiveX or Java") integrated in a specialized page. This object sends significant voice data stream components input on the customer station computer to the [operator] host server. It can do this using the RTP protocol on the IP network, or simply the TCP protocol if the reaction time is not a major constraint.--

Page 11, lines 33-35, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The [operator] host server recognizes words in this data stream and informs the [company] customer server of recognized words.--

Page 12, lines 1-4, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The [company] customer server then initiates actions as a function of the recognized words. For example, it can send a command message to the ActiveX component to display another specialized page.--

Page 12, lines 8-11, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--1. Connection request: Connection request message ([operator] host server => [company] customer server) (Implicit in TCP/IP by opening the exchange mechanism in TCP/IP)--

Page 12, lines 13-16, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--2. Call data: Transmit call data ([operator] host server => [company] customer server)

Called number

Calling number--

Page 12, lines 18-19, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--3. Read sound: Read a sound file ([company] customer server => [operator] host server)--

Page 12, lines 29-31, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--4. DTMF event message ([operator] host server => [company] customer server)

Logical channel number

DTMF key code--

Page 12, lines 33-34, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--5. Sound recording: Recording of a message ([company] customer server => [operator] host server)--

Page 12, lines 46-47, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--6. Send tone: Send a tone ([company] customer server => [operator] host server)--

Page 13, lines 8-9, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--7. Read chain: Concatenate a string of characters ([company] customer server => [operator] host server)--

Page 12, lines 30-31, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--8. Disconnect user: The caller hung up ([operator] host server => [Company] customer server)--

Page 12, lines 35-374, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--9. Disconnect server: Disconnection request by the company server software ([company] customer server => [operator] host server) Logical channel number to be disconnected--

Page 14, lines 33-36, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The host voice resources server analyzes the requested number and deduces that the call must be controlled by the [call control] customer server located at the IP address 192.12.13.14 (located in the travel agent).--

Page 14, lines 37-41, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Therefore, it sends a new call message to the travel agent's [call control] customer server. This [call control] customer server asks it to play a musical background quickly presenting the company and asking the caller to press "1" to book a voyage, or "2" to leave a message.--

Page 15, lines 1-3, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The person presses "1" and the host voice resources server retransmits the event to the travel agent's customer [call control] server.--

Page 15, lines 4-11, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--The dialog continues. It could be imagined that the travel agent would like to announce the price of a particular voyage. The [call control] customer server looks in the travel agent's database for prices and availabilities, and asks the host voice resources server to play the recorded string "the price of your voyage is", and then to synthesize "2345" and then play "Francs".--

Page 15, lines 14-18, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--An H.323 terminal clicks on a link starting from a travel agent's Internet site, provoking a call from the H.323 terminal to the H.323 host server. The host server analyzes the called number and sends an indication for the new call to the travel agent's [call control] customer server.--

Page 15, line 33 to page 16, line 6, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

If the operator has installed another host voice resources server in another country, the travel agent may be accessible from this country. The operator simply reserves a number that is forwarded to the local host voice resources server. The host server continues to contact the company's [call control] customer server. The source of the call is indicated when a new call indication is received, so that the [call control] customer server can dynamically adapt to the most suitable language when it is helpful to do so.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-7 as follows:

--1. (Amended) [Multimedia] A distributed multimedia data [transmission] system, comprising:

a wide area network, the confidentiality and security of which are not controlled from end to end[,to which];

at least one customer server located at each one of a plurality of service suppliers,
each customer server being configured to be connected to the wide area network; and

a shared voice resources and/or video resources host server connected to the wide area network and configured to receive therefrom [providing a dynamic] particular service requests from [to at least one user] users also connected to the wide area network and to initially respond to each received particular service request to determine the particular service supplier concerned therewith, and to then direct each particular received service request to the at least one [call control] customer server located at [each] the concerned particular service supplier[, are connected] for execution of particular service logic associated with services provided thereby.

2. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 1 [in which], wherein the shared voice resources and/or video resources host server[,] is connected to the wide area network through an interface and [is composed of five subsystems] comprises:

[● A] a protocol stack subsystem with an interface that:

[-] receives calls from [the] a data network at [the] an exchange;

[-] detects incoming calls and captures caller and called party numbers;

[-] detects dial tones;

[-] generates [arbitrary] coding-decoding media data streams; and

[-] receives [arbitrary] media coding-decoding data streams[.];

[● A] a command interpreter subsystem [capable of] that:

[- generating] generates messages on detection of new calls to [a call control] each customer server [located at a customer];

[- generating] generates event messages; and
[- making use of] uses commands [originated] from the customer [the call control]
servers [placed at customers, such as:].

3. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 2, further comprising a high performance transcoding resource subsystem.

4. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 3, further comprising a voice synthesis and/or video resources subsystem.

5. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 4, further comprising an audio or video sequences recording/reproduction module subsystem.

6. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 1, wherein [in which] each [call control] customer server [located at a client] is [a] provided as software running at each one of the plurality of service suppliers that receives events signaled by the shared voice resources and/or video resources host server and [sends] provides commands in reaction to these events.

7. (Amended) [System] The system according to claim 6, [in which] wherein the software is running on a computer at each one of the plurality of service suppliers, the computer being provided with two network interfaces, one network interface being connected to the [WAN] wide area network to communicate with the shared voice resources and/or video resources host server[,] and the other network interface being connected to a company private network in order to dialog with customer [the customer's] databases and other industrial processes.

Claims 8 and 9 (New).--